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PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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16th March, 1938.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937, prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

During the year 114 coastwise vessels with a tonnage of 20,790 entered the port, and 13 vessels with a tonnage of 3,396 arrived from foreign ports. These figures compare with 151 coastwise vessels (28,405 tons) and 10 foreign vessels (2,695 tons) for the previous year, the combined total showing a decrease of 34 vessels and 6,914 tons.

The following tables give details of the above arrivals:-

1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT HEALTH DISTRICT DURING 1937.

TABLE A.

		No.	Tonnage.	No. inspected by M.O.H.	No. inspected by S.I.	No. of vessels found with defects.	Vessels on which defects were remedied
Coastwise	Steam	67	14,666	-	51	5	5
	Motor	47	6,124	-	14	2	2
	Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		114	20,790	-	65	7	7
Foreign.	Steam	9	2,917	-	9	-	-
	Motor	4	479	-	4	2	2
	Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		13	3,396	-	13	2	2
Combined total		127	24,186	-	78	9	9

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

(a) Passenger traffic: No passenger vessels entered the port during the year.

(b) Cargo traffic: No cargoes have been exported during the year. The following cargoes were imported:- Granite 40, Coal 37, Petrol 24, Slag 10, Timber 7, Bricks and Cement 4, Slates 2, Iron pipes 3.

(c) The foreign ports from which vessels arrived were:- Antwerp, Archangel, Calais, Holden, Kemi, Stugsund, Trangsund, and St.Malo.

III. SOURCE OF WATER SUPPLY.

Town's water is laid on to wharves, and vessels can refill at any time without difficulty.

There are no water boats at this port.

IV. PORT SANITARY REGULATIONS, 1933.

(1) & (2) Every foreign going vessel arriving from a foreign port is boarded by the Customs Officer immediately on arrival and the Captain asked to fill in and sign a Declaration of Health which is immediately sent to the office of the Port Sanitary Officer.

(3) Any notification of an inward vessel requiring attention under Article 6 would be received through the Harbour Master and Pilots.

(4) A mooring station has been designated as required by Article 10 of the Regulations and is situated immediately north of the Railway Quay on the east side of the River Arun. It has been agreed with the Harbour Master that should this berth be in use when required for quarantine, an alternative berth will be found for the vessel then occupying it. The provision of an additional mooring station outside the harbour is considered impracticable.

No vessel has been detained for medical examination during the year.

(5) No standing exemptions to the provisions of Article 14 have been granted.

(6) It has not been necessary to place any restriction under Section 16 on persons boarding or leaving vessels as, in every case, the Declarations of Health have been satisfactory.

(7) (a) No arrangements have been made for the cleansing and disinfection of persons, but clothing could be disinfected by steam at the Littlehampton Isolation Hospital when required.

(b) No arrangements have been made for the provision of temporary accommodation of persons for whom such may be required under the Regulations.

(c) No arrangements have been made for special premises and waiting room for medical examination. Such would have to be improvised when occasion arises.

(d) The West Sussex County Council have entered into an agreement with the Brighton Corporation for the isolation of smallpox occurring in the county at the Smallpox Hospital at Fulking. Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, and Encephalitis Lethargica could be isolated at the Isolation Hospital of the Littlehampton Urban District Council. If any case of Plague, Cholera, or Yellow Fever arrived on a vessel, special arrangements would have to be made.

(8) & (9) Specimens for bacteriological or pathological examination can be sent to any of two or three local laboratories.

(10) Clinics for the treatment and diagnosis of venereal diseases are held at the Worthing Hospital, Lyndhurst Road, Worthing, and the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, Landport, Portsmouth, serving the eastern and western parts of West Sussex respectively.

TABLE C.

No case of infectious sickness has been notified to the Port Medical Officer during the year.

TABLE D.

No case of infectious sickness has occurred on vessels during the voyage and disposed of prior to arrival.

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V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) No special steps have been taken for the detection of rodent plague (a) in ships in the port (b) on quays, wharves, warehouses, etc., in the vicinity of the port.

(2) The Port Health Authority have provided rat guards and these are used when deemed necessary. No rat infested vessel has entered the port.

(3) Baiting and gassing of rats is periodically carried out in the neighbourhood of the wharves. See Table F.

TABLE F.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
3	5	4	11	7	14	17	15	11	25	60	3	175

VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES. TABLE J.

Nationality of vessel.	No. inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin & other conditions prejudicial to health.
British	65	-	5	6
Foreign	13	-	3	1

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

No foodstuffs have entered the port during the year.

Shell Fish.

There are some very small winkle beds at the mouth of the River Arun which are very little used as there are better and larger beds further east. No infection has been traced to the eating of shell fish during the year.

It has not been necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations, 1915, and the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-fish) Act, 1912.

No samples of food have been submitted for analysis or bacteriological examination.

VIII. STAFF.

Mr. J. L. McGarry acts as Sanitary Inspector for the Port of Littlehampton as well as for the Littlehampton Urban District.

I desire to express my appreciation of the work Mr. McGarry has carried out and also my thanks to the Officer in charge of the Customs for his co-operation at all times.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Wm. Jas. Butcher,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Littlehampton Port Health Authority.